Claims

1. Method of identifying N-terminal proBNP in a sample, wherein at least two antibodies detecting different epitopes of the N-terminal proBNP are used.

2. Method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the antibodies can bind simultaneously to the N-terminal proBNP.

3. Method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the method is performed heterogeneously.

4. Method as claimed in claim 3,
wherein it is performed as a sandwich format.

5. Method as claimed in one of the aforementioned claims,
wherein the lower detection limit for N-terminal proBNP is under 1 fmol/ml.

6. Method as claimed in one of the aforementioned claims, wherein by means of the values obtained a differentiation of samples taken from healthy patients and patients with heart failure of the NYHA-classes I to IV can be made.

7. Method as claimed in claim 6, wherein by means of the values obtained a differentiation of samples taken from healthy patients and patients of the NYHA-classes I can be made.

8. Use of the method according to one of the aforementioned claims for the differentiation between samples taken from healthy patients and patients with heart failure of the NYHA-classes I to IV.

9. Recombinant N-terminal proBNP

10. Use of recombinant N-terminal proBNP as a standard in a method of identifying N-terminal proBNP according to the claims 1 to 7.

11. Use of recombinant N-terminal proBNP for the production of antibodies against N-terminal proBNP.

12. Antibodies against recombinant N-terminal proBNP.

13. Antibodies as claimed in claim 12, wherein they bind specifically in the amino acid range 10 to 66 of the N-terminal proBNP.

14. Antibodies as claimed in claim 12 or 13 obtainable by immunization of a suitable organism with recombinantly produced N-terminal proBNP.

15. Antibodies as claimed in claims 12 to 14, obtainable from the cell lines M 10.1.11 (DSM ACC 2386) or M 13.4.14 (DSM ACC 2387) deposited with the DSMZ on 26.01.1999.

16. Antibodies as claimed in claim 15 and obtained in an equivalent way with N-terminal proBNP as those antibodies produced from the cell lines M 10.1.11 (DSM ACC 2386) or M 13.4.14 (DSM ACC 2387).

17. Cell lines M 10.1.11 (DSM ACC 2386) or M 13.4.14 (DSM ACC 2387) deposited with the DSMZ on 26.01.1999.

18. Method for the production of polyclonal antibodies as claimed in claims 12 to 14 or 16, containing the steps immunization of a suitable organism with recombinantly produced N-terminal proBNP, isolation of antibodies, screening for the most reactive epitopes and purification of the antibodies by immunosorption with appropriate peptides.

19. Method for the production of polyclonal antibodies as claimed in claims 12 to 16, containing the steps immunization of a suitable organism with recombinantly produced N-terminal proBNP and selection of the clones regarding the antibody reactivity with native N-terminal proBNP in different pools of patient sera.